

HIGHPOINT



Vol. 6, No. 1

Bishop Ford H. S., Brooklyn, N. Y.

October 26, 1967



The standby sign is on as Mr. Duggan with the "It's Academic" team awaits the go-ahead.

"Academic" Team Bows in Opener

by George Jalinos
of the Highpoint Staff

On Saturday, September 23, Bishop Ford High School competed with two other secondary schools on the WNBC-TV show, "It's Academic", to be televised in November. The show involves a contest among three schools in which academic questions are put to each of the school teams by the host, Art James.

Ford's team was made up of Charles Di Fonzo (captain), Steve Brienza, and Gerard Lynch. The back-up team consisted of Mark O'Callaghan, George Thompson, and James Duffley. All six seniors were chosen last year and were coached this year by Mr. Duggan. The two schools who provided competition were Central High, Valley Stream and Dumont High School, New Jersey.

Not Quick Enough

In the first round of the competition, individual packets containing different questions were put to each of the teams. Scoring was based on the number of correct answers given in a specified time. At the end of this round, we were in a tying position with Central High. In the second round, the procedure was the same except that penalties were imposed for wrong answers. In this round we fell back to second place behind Dumont High. The hottest part of the program was the "Grab-bag" round where questions are put to all three teams. The team with the quickest correct answers scores the points. Penalties were inflicted for wrong answers. Unfortunately, we weren't quick enough. Finally, as the third round finished, Dumont High School came up the winner with Central High second and Bishop Ford third.

Hall Starts Fall Season

by Mike McLean
of the Highpoint Staff

As the new school year begins so does the fall season of performances at Lincoln Center. This year the Center will be presenting to the public some of the better operas heightened by a fine cast and good production.

The primary purpose of the club which is moderated by Brother Armand is to introduce operas and concerts to Ford students during the coming year. In order for its members to become acquainted with such performances, the Lincoln Center Club offers reduced rate tickets to its members for Monday night presentations. Tickets to attend on other nights are offered at reduced prices whenever they are available to the school.

Julliard Returns

Besides enabling Ford students to attend performances, the Lincoln Center Club is also responsible for the presentation of Lincoln Center to the school. This year as in the past, the Lincoln Center Acting Company will perform here as well as representatives of the Juilliard School of Music.

Trip Extends Insight

by Jim Pittman
of the Highpoint Staff

Baseball, basketball, movies, jobs—that was the story of most people's summer this year. However, at least two Ford students, Wayne Gillman and Patrick Kilkenny, spent their time in a slightly different way. They went to Europe. I talked with them about their experiences in the Old World; about how they got there and what they found.

Everyone, which means three brothers (including our own Brother Emmett) plus 21 students from three Franciscan schools, boarded an ultramodern SAS jet August 1. Except it wasn't really a fine August 1, so the jetliner didn't get off the ground until 4½ hours later. Conditions finally cleared up and soon Kennedy Airport was left behind and the journey had begun. Europe, with its well known beauty and charm, its tradition and pride, its thoughts and emotions, would soon be probed by the passengers on the jet.

Bevy of Blondes

Copenhagen was the first city to receive the Franciscan caravan. Tivoli Gardens, with its group of discotheques, attracted the attention of several students. Maybe, it was the abundance of blondes. In either case, the visit was considered well worthwhile.

"Hofbrauhaus", in Munich, received a great deal of praise. It is Germany's largest beer hall. In Europe there is very little in the way of age requirement for the consumption of alcohol. August 5 was devoted to a full day excursion to the countryside.

The next day found our adventurers in the island-city of Venice. Riding in a gondola through the city was interesting. St. Mark's Church, the Bridge of Sighs and the Dungeons were seen by the travelers on the 7th, impressing them with awe and respect.

Europe vs America

In giving their impressions of Europe as compared to America, the older continent came out in good shape. Transportation is on the level of our own in the realm of train systems. Streets are much more congested with pedestrians than New York City. Automobiles are as common as in the U.S. The people are friendly, and language provides little barrier. While our language is spoken, to a lesser degree, in most countries visited, a very large segment of the Danish population speaks English. As far as conveniences go, the Europeans seem to be a bit behind. They lack modern plumbing.

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Council at Work Committee Ready

by Jim Cutie
News Editor

Ralph Coccoaro, president of the Student Council, has some very promising thoughts on the school year. When interviewed, Ralph elaborated on many of them. The council has already begun making progress. This year promises to produce many "mind-expanding" occurrences at Ford.

The first "happening" will be the Halloween dance on October 28, which probably will be a "mod dance." A band contest will be held with six groups. The first three group finalists will be awarded trophies and given a contract to play at two school dances this year.

Go-Go Girls

When Ralph was elected the students were waiting for the day when they would open their lockers and out would come a go-go girl. Ralph hopes to fulfill his platform's major promise at the Christmas dance to be held on December 16. Smoking privileges for all the dances are trying to be secured.

On Saturday and Sunday, the 3rd and 4th of February, a ski trip for seniors is planned. Coccoaro quotes the price at approximately \$35 and calls it "a good deal." The Valentines Day Dance is tentatively scheduled for February 10. A second ski trip, this time for the entire school, is planned for February 17-18, depending on the success of the first trip. Ford's second annual Rock 'n' Roll show will take place around the 8th of March. Ralph hopes to have "some real big name groups." Miss Bishop Ford will be chosen at the Spring Fling. The last dance of the year will be a second "mod dance" to be held about May 18.

Pierre: The Prom

The Senior Committee, a vital part of the Student Council, has already busied itself. They have secured the use of the Hotel Pierre for the Senior Prom. The moderator of the Senior Prom Committee is Mr. Hynoski. The Senior Committee consists of the presidents of last year's junior classes

and this year's senior classes. They have already set up plans which they hope will materialize. The committee is trying to secure, as a senior privilege, the right of seniors to be served for the first ten minutes of each lunch period. Coccoaro says that if this right is granted, the seniors would be designated by their rings or G.O. cards.

"Different" Students

Ralph hopes that this year's senior day will be "different." The senior assembly in June has already been considered. The Senior Committee has also offered to aid the Pagoda staff throughout the year. A publicity club consisting of student council members is in the making. It's a plan to "keep the students aware of the different events occurring at Ford." The Senior Committee and Student Council are both conducted and moderated by Brother Alphonsus. The new business committee hopes to "find a novel idea to replace the Rye Beach trip, possibly Palisades Amusement Park or Bear Mountain." Ralph wishes to secure a sports competition program between Ford and St. Francis Prep. The Committee has begun planning for the senior gift to the school. It is hoped that rallies for all big events will be held in the gym.

Promising Projects

The Student Council has some very promising projects, and with a good amount of student backing, should have a great year. Good luck to its president, Ralph Coccoaro, its vice-president, Greg Ventre, and the entire council. Ralph encourages and welcomes all suggestions.

Highpoint Welcomes New Teachers



Miss Fernandez, left, and Miss Cregan are Bishop Ford's first two female teachers. Miss Fernandez teaches Spanish, while Miss Cregan assists Brother Jonathan in the Art Department.

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Editorials

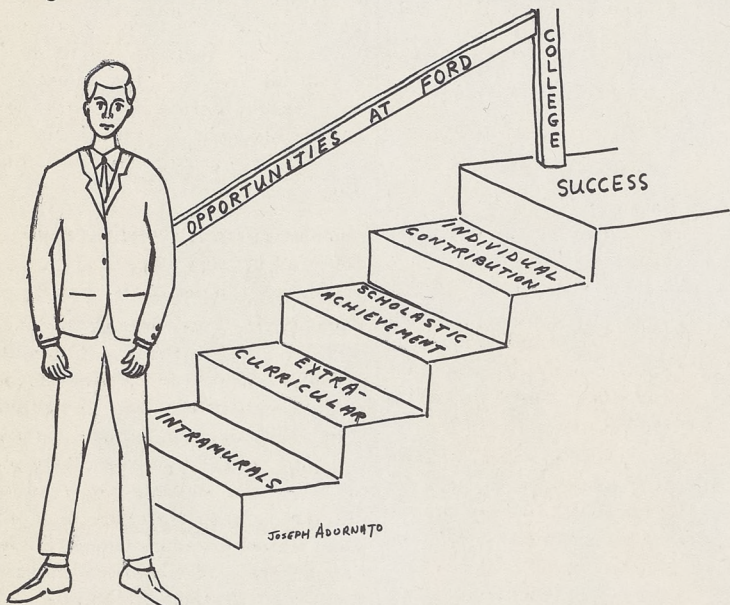
Steve Brienza
Editor-in-Chief

Another year, another staff. *Highpoint* has had the misfortune which befalls all school activities. We are referring to graduation. Our class leaders leave us and then all of a sudden responsibility is placed in the laps of new people.

Last year's *Highpoint*, with a staff headed by Frank Tabert, received a score of 810 out of a possible 1,000 by the Catholic Press Association. This placed the paper in an All-Catholic classification—one of the best in the nation.

Now it's up to the new people to equal that and, if possible, to better it. The new staff includes: Jim Brannan, Ass't. Editor; Steve Balzarini, Feature Editor; Jim Cutie, News Editor and Bill Gargan, Sports Editor.

The first issue of *Highpoint* would not be appropriate without a welcome to the freshmen. To all freshmen we extend our good wishes that they have a profitable four years. One way to accomplish this, is by opening our minds to new ideas. It is our sincere hope that all the new students realize this and see the responsibility that they are expected to fulfill. Being a student at Bishop Ford does not just mean obeying rules and doing homework. As one enters high school, he should be cognizant that as an individual he has much to contribute.



Bishop Ford offers everybody a chance to show his talents. With such a large amount of extra-curricular activities and a more expanded intramural program, it would certainly be a wasted four years if you don't take advantage of all opportunities. *Bon chance mes amis!*

Why do some people find it hard to exist in this world? At one time or another we must have asked this question in reference to somebody or maybe even ourselves. People do not act belligerently because they like to bother others. Basically, everybody is searching for the same thing—their own happiness. Some people go about this search in a way familiar to us. Someone who takes a different route, a less involved route, an uncomplicated route, is missing out on all the beauty of life. These are the people who find it hard to exist, act contentious and quarrelsome. They are afraid, frightened of new people and new ideas. Unfortunately, most of them muddle along in their ignorance, complacent with their uneventful existence. They are content to remain uninvolved, isolated, as it were, from the world and all the things which make life worth living. People in this situation have no recourse but to act hostile and malevolent.

The isolationist is a person just like us. He requires patience and understanding. First we must communicate with him and this is accomplished by seeing him as an individual, a brother, and most of all as a person worth something. An old Indian proverb says that "a man must walk in the moccasins of another" to know him. We should view someone as himself and not as a reflection of ourselves.

The isolationist is not that way by choice. He was forced to his position by unthinking people. We must be aware of our obligation to help him and remove him from his position of obscurity.

(continued page 2, column 3)

Drama Draws Followers

by Greg Shelton
of the *Highpoint* Staff

Under the direction of Brother Jonathan and Brother Marcel, Bishop Ford's dramatic workshop is in the midst of dramatic theory and practice. The objective of the workshop this year is to have the students learn the fundamentals of dramatics. According to Brother Marcel, the workshop plans one full production all year and no definite date has been set. It is fascinating to watch the group perform. The workshop plans to continue this program for the entire school year, and it now consists of some 60 boys and girls.

Intense Sensation

Brother Jonathan directs the students to form a huge reptile, each student being his or her own creature. The students present a feeling of a massive intense sensation brought out by their sincerity in what they are doing. Brother Jonathan has his group create such things as walls, trains, and laughter. Such words as "intensify" and "relationship" are often heard during the rehearsals to make the students believe in what they are doing.

Student Shot

During the session Brother Jonathan asked his group, "Is there any way to be shot?" Each student answered and gave his or her demonstration of being shot.

Brother Marcel created the "who" scene where the actors on stage had audience participation. As usual dramatics has its old veterans again like Tom O'Callahan, Cathi Burke, Steve Balzarini, Jenette Cregg and many others.

Science Club: Working For Fair

Thanks to the organization of the Roger Bacon Science Club it is possible to participate in yearlong workshops aimed at learning useful scientific techniques which are not taught in the ordinary high school curriculum.

Over a span of 4 years the science club has been conducting workshops for students under the guidance of qualified teachers from the science department. In the past it has conducted workshops in Comparative Anatomy, Biochemistry, Botany, Histology, and Radiation Biology. The workshop areas for this school year will be two in Histology, two in Radiation Biology, one individual

project section, and one group project section.

As in the past the culmination of this year's activities will be the entrance of projects in the City and Diocesan Science Fairs. The last few years nearly all projects entered in contests merited awards. Each year school letters, trophies, and plaques are awarded to deserving students. Membership in the Roger Bacon Science Club is open to all interested students. The only pre-requisites for membership are a sense of inquiry and industry.

Those interested in joining this worthwhile organization are asked to contact Brother Marius or Mr. John Bianchi.

What's the Third Order?

To clear up some questions regarding their organization, the members of the Third Order have summarized these basic answers.

The Third Order

WHAT IT ISN'T:

- 1) a night center for frustrated ballplayers (Although members do play ball.)
- 2) an extension of the Boy Scouts (Although they do camp out.)
- 3) a group for dead-heads (They quit.)
- 4) a sanctuary for the holy phony (Who needs them.)
- 5) a vocation club (This is not its purpose.)

WHAT IT IS:

- 1) a group of solid young men
- 2) a socially active organization
- 3) individuals who work as a unit
- 4) a unit that works for its individual members

- 5) boys who are so active, that meetings must be held in the evenings

HOW TO JOIN:

- 1) Active membership in the Ford Fraternity for a minimum of six months
- 2) A knowledge of the privileges and responsibilities of membership

FORD FRATERNITY GROUP

LEADERS:

Freshmen
—Brother Mel
—Brother Armand
—Brother Majella
Upperclassmen
—Brother Carmine

THIRD ORDER—MODERATOR—

Brother Lucian

MEETINGS—

Monday evening—7:30 Main Lobby

(continued from column 1)

On Saturday, Nov. 4 the show taped by Bishop Ford for "It's Academic" will be aired. The school finished in third place out of three teams. As a member of our team, I would like to express my thanks to all the other team members for their encouragement and suggestions. I want to thank all those that came to the studio that day and supported their school. And a special word of thanks to our moderator, Brother Emmet and our coach, Mr. John Duggan. Even though we did not win, it was a terrific experience for all involved.

Father James Groppi, the Milwaukee priest who incites riots, is certainly not a person to be accused of isolationism. He is in the thick of the civil rights turmoil. On a recent visit to the capital, he asked for a cutoff of federal funds to Milwaukee and other cities allowing discrimination in housing, education, or employment. Fr. Groppi insists that there is an American version of the caste system and upholds the right to use violence if peaceful techniques don't work.

Highpoint is in favor of equal rights in all fields to all people and we hate the tactics of people who try to put the Negro down. Yet a Catholic priest, a man of God, insisting that people use violence is definitely employing the wrong tack and should not be listened to.

A basic Catholic philosophy says that the end never justifies the means. It is hoped that Fr. Groppi remembers this the next time he leads a demonstration.

Next issue we hope to start a Letters to the Editor column. If you have any comment on *Highpoint*, its editorials, articles, columns, etc. please write us and we will try to answer a few in the second issue. Letters can be left at the Publications Office.



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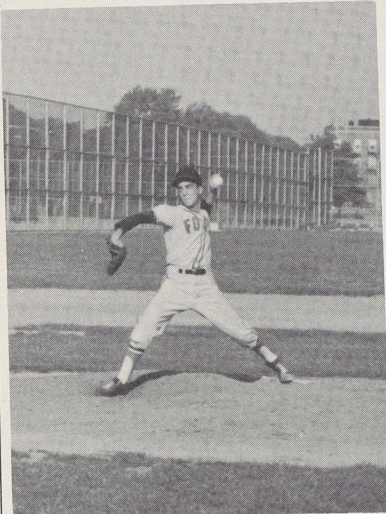
Falcons Drop Final Contests

by William Gargan
Sports Editor

The varsity nine went down swinging in the last two games of the season. They showed their best but it wasn't good enough.

Ronnie Clyne's two homeruns and Jim McLoughlin's great catch, robbing Molloy of a homer and turning it into a double play, were unable to hold Molloy and Riley down. And so the Falcons were knocked into third place, a drop of one position from last season.

As far as the spring season goes, the team looks uncertain. The hitting, with Buzzie Kawas and Ronnie Clyne batting over .450 and the rest of the team hitting near .300, is in good shape. The fielding also looks promising but the pitching is weak. Vinnie La Barbera is a fine pitcher but there's only one of him. He can't pitch every game. If the team gets one more good hurler, it can bring the championship to Ford next June.



Vinnie La Barbera warms up.

Novices Clash in Third Order Meet

Twenty-five boys from the Third Order excelled in a battle of muscles and coordination in football, basketball, and softball on the last day of September.

The contest arose from the dual challenge of Ed Conway (class of '66) and Ralph Cavolo (class of '67). Both are studying for the brotherhood out in St. Francis Novitiate. Twenty-seven strong novices assisted them.



In the on-deck circle: Brother Paul.

In softball, Ford led by the fourth inning, 8-3. This was because of the powerful infield of Brother Carmine (two homers), Brother Majella (two errors), Kevin McKenzie (two hits), and Brother Lucian (too bad). After the brothers were asked to leave the game for unsportsmanlike conduct a strictly defensive battle began. The ninth inning found the score deadlocked at eight. Ralph Cavolo blasted a homer out into deep center field. Though Brother Paul called the ball "foul" the novices questioned his authority to coach and ump at the same time. It is rumored that Clifford Weeks is still searching for the ball.

Fitzgerald Excels

At this point it was decided that to save the day, Ford would have to split up into two unbeatable groups. The basketball team composed of

such greats as Cliff Weeks, Mike Beaupee, Gimo Maffia and Jack Kelly headed for the outdoor court. Brother Carmine played the double role of coach and quarterback of the football team.

With the outstanding shooting of Pat Fitzgerald and shouting of Brother Lucian, Ford dominated the basketball court. With Brother Mel handling the scorebook, Ford won going away.

Down at the football field a different route for victory was being taken. The sides were split in such a way that Ford couldn't lose. Brother Carmine's team drove to paydirt three times. The final score Ford 18, Novices 6.

Although all the Ford boys had a great day, the novices seemed a bit disgruntled. After declaring the basketball and football games invalid, they challenged the group to a rematch on some later date.

Hockey Club Rolls in '67

by Ralph Constantino
of the Highpoint Staff

This year the Bishop Ford roller hockey club will begin again under the leadership of Mr. McConvey. He views a well formed club with a new expanded schedule.

The men who have rejoined the club are Tom McCormick, Charles LoGuidice, Jack Hayes, Pete Grecco, Steve Fiore, and Anthony De Graeta. New members include Walt Valentine, Charles Di Selvestri, Jeff Becker, Kevin Mahoney and Dan Magerine.

Intramurals Move Ahead

by Joseph Bongiorno
of the Highpoint Staff

This year's intramurals will be exciting with many improvements.



On the track.

First, the newly elected intramural directors, who meet regularly, will be running most of the program themselves. Outside of major school decisions, they will be responsible for discipline in the activities. Secondly, an Official Organization will be created, with an elected president, who will coordinate all sports. This organization, open to all, would receive credit at the end of the school year.

New intramurals: ping pong, softball, touch football, and hockey have been added to the roster. The school bowling intramurals, also will be changed to a school bowling league. Trophies will only be awarded when there is ample competition in the sport.

Mr. Wittekind emphasizes that the students will be running the program themselves and therefore, he hopes for a good response from them.

Ford Seeks '67 Indoor Honors

by Greg Ventre
of the Highpoint Staff

Bishop Ford H. S. has never won a major track trophy. Last season Coach Bucchere dreamed of bringing a track championship to the home of the Falcons. It didn't happen, but 1967 could be the year.

Tracksters Take Two

by Al Malefatto
of the Highpoint Staff

The Bishop Ford Track team started their Cross Country season right by winning their first two meets.

In the first one they defeated St. Francis Prep, 23-37. John Bumbaca was first for Ford with a 14:53 and Curtis Willocks second with his 15:00.

In the second meet the Falcons beat Nazareth and St. John's Prep with scores of 28 for Ford, 37 for Nazareth, and 100 for St. John's. Ray Worsdale led the Ford team with at 14:43.

The Falcons will run next at the New York City meet on October 7 and hopes are high. One of the reasons for this is John Bumbaca, who will try to lead the team to its third straight win.

Returning to the team in the indoor division are senior sprint stars such as Mario Colasuonno, Al Logie, Ralph Cocco, and Al Sylvan. A late-comer to the track scene last year, Al Logie, from Trinidad, has become Ford's best from the 60-yard dash to the quarter mile. He will receive plenty of competition from Colasuonno, who is determined to improve on his fifth place finish in the 50-yard dash in the Garden last year. These sprinters will be pushed by a fine crop of sophomore runners such as Lenny Duvernez, Mike Liede, Larry Brown and Al Codogan.

Logie Can Fly

In the quarter mile, Curt Willocks, Al Sylvan and Al Logie are ready and able to fly. Mike Castore, last season's Freshman track man of the year, Dave Howard, Frosh record holder in the 440, are two J. V. runners that could surprise.

Seniors Gerry Lynch and Steve O'Donnell hold down the half-mile, followed by John Bumbaca and Tom McClellan. In the mile, Pat Boland, Ron Scott and Ron Misnieske are gunning for the school record. The two mile goes to the experience and ability of senior Ray Worsdale.

The relays also seem to be a powerhouse in the Falcon's picture.

Record Holder Returns

Returning are Freshmen shot-put record holder Joe Piasco, Ken De-Brule, Guy Sconzo and Greg Ventre, school record holder in the javelin throw.

In the high jump, Danny Cummins looks like one of the best in the city. He recently jumped 6 ft. 1 in. at practice. The hurdles are overcome by school record holder Al Codogan.

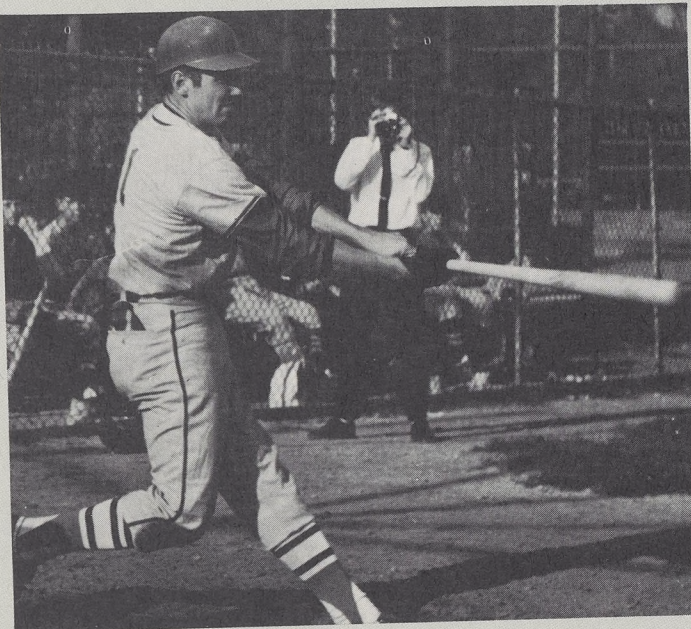
Mr. Sherlock and Brother Florian have molded one of the best cross-country teams in the Freshmen division and they are hoping that the team can come through indoors. They have been just fantastic so far and results look very promising.

Cross-country is still going strong with wins over Nazareth, Brooklyn Prep, St. John's and St. Francis without a loss. The indoor season looks like a championship in the making.

Best 880 Relay

We have perhaps the best 880 yd. relay in the league. The two mile relay of Steve O'Donnell, Al Logie, Ron Scott, John Bumbaca and Ray Worsdale has its sights set on breaking 8:10. Coach Bucchere also feels we can develop our mile relay into one of the city's best.

In the field events, Brother Carmine is determined to build the best in the city. He has fielded the largest squad in Ford history and a group of tall and wide Freshmen look promising.



Toohill connects for extra bases.

TRIP EXTENDS INSIGHT

(continued from page 1)

Rome was next on the list of the now well experienced explorers. Amidst mod fashions and motor vehicles, Renaissance masterpieces by Michelangelo were savored. St. Peter's Basilica was particularly impressive, due to its majesty and grandeur. However, the Eternal City, while fascinating, did not get the top rating from Patrick and Wayne.

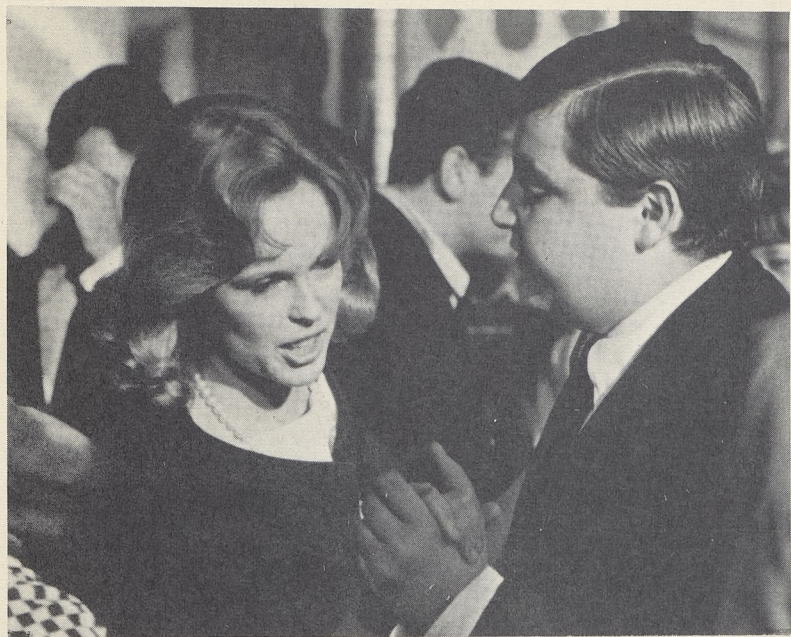
Both agreed that the most striking place they visited was Nice. Housing styles contrasted sharply with those of other localities in Europe, to the advantage of Nice. The beaches combined with the beauty of the Mediterranean to form the background of a unique picture.

August 14 came, and the tourists discovered Lucerne, Switzerland. And the best way to discover a place?

By walking through it!—which is exactly what they did. Paris on August 15, with the historic Bastille, the treasurehouse of the Louvre, and the Tomb of Napoleon, became a part of the story of Europe.

London was the final stopover before returning to the States. All the time-honored places were seen, such as Shakespeare's birthplace, the Tower of London, and Buckingham Palace. But new tourist attractions like Carnaby Street weren't neglected. What you read in *Time* and other publications about swinging London is accurate according to the observations of our two reporters.

August 21—and it was back to New York, City of a Million Lights, but still not bright enough to dim the memory of a summer well spent.



"How's 'bout a stroll to Burgerama after this mind expanding dance?"
Sal Rasa and Sandy Dennis in a scene from "Up the Down Staircase."

Up the Down Staircase: Mushy Stuff Without Mush

by Phil Vanaria
of the Highpoint Staff

The educational system over the years has developed many complexities, otherwise known as rules and regulations. One of the most solemn rules governs the art of walking on a staircase. It simply tags "up" or "down".

Somewhere along the line, teacher Bel Kaufman wrote an interesting "thesis" about this and other school hang-ups, craftily titled "Up the Down Staircase". Since its debut, it has delighted readers and established itself as a modern classic—a very realistic and excellent one. Hollywood eventually came knocking and New York took over, taking the book to the streets and Calvin Coolidge High School, with a cast of thousands and a new movie under its belt.

Crude Development

The film has tried to abridge the book, taking from it its most interesting incidents. It has made a very concise collection and handles itself fairly well. The choice of situations is good; the development is more or less crude and strongly contributes to the low quality of the movie as compared to the book's. The defect is that the central theme—Miss Barrett's goals as an educator—is not emphasized enough so as to connect all the parts into a continuing story. More noticeable is that the well-handled situations and characterizations do not follow through on their quality—just when they arouse your interest, they end. Furthermore, the short running time could have allowed room for needed expansion.

However, the movie is entertaining because of the afore-praised situations and many of the performances.

The student amateurs come off well—notably Ellen O'Meara as Alice Blake, Maria Landa as Carole Blanca, Sal Rasa as Harry Keegan and Lew Wallach as Lou Martin. Almost all the teenagers projected realism, just as most of the adult actors did. Outstanding were Sandy Dennis as Sylvia Barrett and Ruth White as Bea Schacter. I think Miss Dennis could very probably establish herself as one of America's first ladies of entertainment if she'd only stop looking like she was on one of the worst-manned boats ever built. Dismissing her apparent plague, she turns in another finely-etched poignant appearance. However, the show should really be Ruth White's. She plays her part very believably, registering her emotions with complete control and balance. Her major achievement is that, subtle and warm as she is, she says the mushy stuff without the mush and thus gives her messages unforgettable scope.

No Bring-down

Finally, apart from its other elements, the film has excellent technical effects. The scenery is just-right, the color is dazzling, and the photography is masterful. Moreover, the musical score is extremely catchy.

All told, the movie is just about balanced. Maybe you ought to take the trip *Up the Down Staircase*—it's not that much of a bring-down.

McBride Leads Bowlers

Bowling season's here again and this year's second place varsity keggers are shooting for the top. Richard McBride and Rocky Loccisno, two veterans, are back giving the team experience, while two of last year's J.V. boys, Paul Conceny and Tom McCarthy, are expected to give the

team the extra "Umph" it needs to push itself over the top.

The future also looks bright for the J.V. team. With its average of 156, last year's third place team envisions at least a second place. Who knows? They might even top the league.

Bobby Dylan in Wonderland

by Jim Brannan
Assistant Editor

The thin, nervous little man shuffles off the stage. The Royal Albert Hall explodes with thunderous applause. Four thousand people have been mesmerized for 90 minutes by the bushy-haired performer. His guitar was harsh; his voice harsher. His harmonica was wheezy. But his songs were among the most meaningful ever sung in the stately hall. The object of the grand acclamation slumps into a chair in his dressing room. He lights a cigarette, peers from behind his prescription sunglasses, and frowns. With the thunder still in his ears, Bob Dylan whispers, "You know, applause is really a lot of bull."

In early 1965, Donn Alan Pennebaker took his camera and sound equipment to London in pursuit of the ever elusive, ever poetic Dylan. Pennebaker filmed for 20 days, edited for 40, and finally came out with 90 minutes of exciting footage. The finished product is as magnetic as Dylan himself.

Dylan's arrival in London was like a match being thrust into a gas-filled room. Bobby's recordings were at their popularity peak when the artist breezed into Great Britain's capital city. While the reaction of his fans was overwhelming, the press, at first, seemed skeptical.

Annoyed

Forced into a press conference, Dylan is annoyed. He cannot account for his popularity; "I'm just doing what I did before," he says. When a woman reporter asks him if he reads the Bible, Dylan smiles an agnostic's smile. (He later asserts that he believes in absolutely nothing.)

The next morning, Dylan is amused to find that a reporter has testified to Bob's smoking 80 cigarettes a day. "Not me," he muses.

From this point on, the film barrels along. Dylan wheels around London, impassively going from concert to concert, his fans whipping themselves into a frenzy.

Dylan Mystique

We see reflections of Dylan in the people that surround him. Bob Newirth clowns, Joan Baez sighs, Albert Grossman dickers, Allen Ginsberg observes, Donovan moves into the shadows and Alan Price gets drunk. Only these few are allowed to come within arm's length of Dylan, and then but occasionally.

Throughout the movie, Dylan projects his well-known folk hero image. He refuses to discuss both past and future. He appears to be genuinely disinterested in the present. In speaking to a young science student-turned-reporter, Dylan takes advantage of the youth's obvious admiration for him. Bob thrusts and parries, and with each statement, his surrealistic foil cuts more deeply into the interrogator's subconscious. When it is implied that Dylan might get some good out of knowing the reporter, Bob asks "What good could I possibly get out of knowing you?" Exit one challenge to the Dylan mystique.

A man from *Time* magazine is the next to try to probe Dylan's mind. Bob destroys the reporter (and the magazine) in classic style. "I don't need *Time* magazine!" he shouts. "People read *Time* magazine because it's small and it's got pictures. You don't even know the people who read

it. If I want to know what's going on," he concludes, "I wouldn't read *Time* magazine. I can't take it seriously."

The movie includes some fascinating shots of Dylan in concert. These were the pre-electricity days for the composer, but Pennebaker cleverly documents Bob's mood for a transition into the folk-rock field. Though he defends the sound of his "Subterranean Homesick Blues" (the first time Dylan used electric guitars on a record) he stubbornly refuses to take the electricity on stage with him. Months after this movie was filmed, Dylan *did* use an electric guitar in concert—at the Newport Folk Festival. He was booed off the stage in this performance. The new sound, however, quickly gained popular acceptance.

Behind Dylan's self-made mask of obscurity, we see an active, alert and sometimes conceited mind. Getting into a fantastic argument with a drunk, Bob is called a "big noise." After lashing back with a salvo of four-letter words, Dylan concedes. "I know I'm a big noise, man. I know it!"

Don't Look Back

It is all tied up in a package which Pennebaker chooses to call *Don't Look Back*. While it is a fine movie, it is nonetheless lacking in many ways. It denies several of Dylan's facets and faculties (he seemingly forsakes the creation of new songs in favor of polishing proven numbers) and makes him out to be little more than an extremely popular black leather minstrel. But the undeniable fact remains: Bob Dylan is genius, genius, genius.

New Assistant Principal Upholds Ford System

by Steve Balzarini
Feature Editor

Born in Brooklyn, Brother Blaise Dumas, O.S.F., our new assistant to Brother Timothy, is certainly among the most proficient new additions to Ford's faculty. Brother's background ranges from grammar school teacher to Dean of Students at St. Francis College. A Master's Degree in guidance, B.S. in education, as well as being a doctoral Candidate in Student Personnel Services are currently under Brother's belt (or should we say cincture?).



Brother Blaise Dumas O.S.F. Saint Anthony's Juniorate at Smithtown has seen Brother for six years as a faculty member, then as Guidance Director, and finally he assumed the position of Director of the Juniorate. Brothers Jonathan, Joachim, Lucian, and Gilbert have each spent some time with Brother Blaise previous to his stay at Ford.

Prior to coming to the hallowed halls on Prospect Park West, Brother held a position at Saint Francis College. Rumor has it that the men there were very reluctant to give him up. If it could be said of anyone that he has the knack for making friends fast, Brother Blaise would be at the top of the list.

Being new to his surroundings Brother made a few general comments on life here at Ford. "I find myself impressed with the fine organization of the school in every area of education and programming." When I asked him about our friend "Merlin the Computer" he stoically replied "Well as far as I can see the computer is the only practical solution to such a large system of education. Despite its drawbacks (i.e. 487 gym classes in one period), it offers a tremendous amount of student flexibility. They will in my opinion improve and eventually prove invaluable as we progress."

COMING...

NEXT ISSUE:

- Donovan '67
- Views of
Harold Pinter
- Faculty Interview:
Mr. McBride

The tremendous student opportunity here is another facet of Brother's admiration. "A lot of credit goes to Brother Timothy in the efficient system here." As far as change goes he shyly blushes and says "things are now O.K., I need more time to observe." Brother Blaise is an advocate of sports, "track is tremendous" as well as baseball and basketball.